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Rights of the Child

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MEETING OF STATES PARTIES
Sixth meeting
New York, 18 February 1997
Agenda item 5

ELECTION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 43 OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, OF FIVE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, TO REPLACE THOSE WHOSE TERMS ARE DUE TO EXPIRE ON 28 FEBRUARY 1997

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. The present addendum contains biographical data concerning Mrs. Rita Félicité Sodjiedo, whose candidacy was presented by the Republic of Benin in document CRC/SP/21/Add.3.

GE.97-15517 (E)

Rita Félicité Sodjiedo (Republic of Benin)

I. CIVIL IDENTITY:

Born: 18 December 1955, in Cotonou, Benin

Civil Status: Married, mother of three children

Occupation: Magistrate, Judge of the Court of Appeal of Cotonou

Grade: Magistrate A1-9

II. DIPLOMAS:

1996: Diploma of advanced studies (DEA) in Human Rights at the Human Rights Institute - Catholic University of Lyon. Class: "Mention Assez Bien".

Special subjects:

- Law of Minorities

- Humanitarian law.

Memorandum on the Rights of the Child entitled: "Le Bénin d'hier et d'aujourd'hui face à la Convention relative aux droits de l'enfant" (Benin past and present and the Convention on the Rights of the Child).

1979: Master's Degree in Legal Sciences. Special subject: Business law and judicial careers. National University of Benin.

III. TRAINING:

1. Initial training course in magistracy:

16 April 1980 - 16 April 1981: Magistrate's training course at the Appeal Court of Cotonou.

2. Improvement courses:

- January-June 1985: Improvement course at the Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature in Paris.

- September-October 1993: Specialization course on *Economic disputes*.

Course on the law of summons (Référés) (Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature, Paris).

3. Human Rights courses:

- July 1989: Human Rights course at the Centre for Human Rights in Geneva, (Switzerland).

- Human Rights course at the International Institute of Human Rights, Strasbourg (France).

October 1996: Training seminar on the drafting and presentation of periodic reports, organized in Cotonou from 7 to 11 October 1996 by the Ministry for Legislation, Justice and Human Rights, the Centre for Human Rights in Geneva and UNICEF.

4. A list of further courses and training followed by the candidate may be consulted at the Secretariat.

IV. EXPERIENCE:

1. Professional experience:

Since 18 March 1992: Judge at the Court of Appeal at Cotonou.

September 1990 - March 1992: Magistrate for Social Affairs at the Court of First Instance of Cotonou.

January 1989 - September 1990: Deputy Public Prosecutor at the Court of Appeal of Cotonou.

February 1984 - December 1988: Senior Deputy Public Prosecutor at the Court of First Instance of Porto-Novo.

August 1982 - February 1984: Investigating Magistrate at the Court of First Instance of Ouidah.

April 1981 - August 1982: Serving with the Court of Appeal of Cotonou.

2. Other experience:

- Since August 1996: Member (Director) of the Governing Board of the International Office for Children's Rights, Montreal, Canada.

- Member of the Scientific Committee of the Institute for Human Rights and the Promotion of Democracy: Democracy on a day-to-day basis, Cotonou, Benin.

1995: Assistant Secretary-General to the Autonomous National Electoral Commission (CENA) (as representative of the Benin Human Rights Commission) for the legislative elections.

Since 1993: Lecturer at the Institute for Human Rights and the Promotion of Democracy: Democracy on a day-to-day basis. Subjects taught: Rights of the Child and Rights of Women.

1985-1990: Chaired several ad hoc (administrative) disciplinary committees.

3. Participation in seminars, study trips and other activities.

3.1 Simple participation:

List available at the Secretariat.

3.2 Participation with written contributions:

19-21 August 1996: *Les droits de l'enfant: Méthodologie et pédagogie de leur enseignement dans le milieu préscolaire et scolaire*, (the Rights of the Child: Methodology and pedagogy of children's education in a preschool and school environment) at the Workshop-Seminar on the Application of article 40 of the Constitution on 11 December 1990, Institute for Human Rights and the Promotion of Democracy: Democracy on a day-to-day basis (IDH and DQ), Cotonou, Benin.

March 1996: *Reports on the Rights of the Child in Benin*, Regional Seminar on the Rights of the Child, organized by the International Commission of Jurists, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

20-22 November 1995: *The Rights of the Child: Human Rights for Children*, at the National Seminar on the Rights of the Child to life and a family and customary practices in Benin, Ecole Normale Intégrée de Parakou, organized by the DEI-Benin National Section of the l'Association Béninoise d'Assistance à l'enfant et à la famille, and the World Organization for Early Childhood Education.

11-14 December 1994: *La Communauté, instrument indispensable pour la surveillance* (The Community, indispensable monitoring instrument), at the European Conference on the Monitoring of Children's Rights, organized by the University of Gand, Belgium.

29-31 July 1992: *Droits de l'enfant et législation en matière d'adoption* (Rights of the Child and adoption legislation), at the National Seminar on "Adoption, a new chance for abandoned children", Centre d'Accueil et de Formation (CCAF), Porto-Novo, Benin. (Organizers: Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Terre des Hommes Foundation, UNICEF).

22-24 April 1993: *La protection juridique et sociale de l'enfant au Bénin* (Legal and Social Protection of Children in Benin), at the Seminar on the Plan to set up Centres for the Legal and Social Defence of Children, organized by Defence for Children International and DEI-Benin, Centre Paul IV, Cotonou, Benin.

4. Lectures delivered:

June 1994: Lecture on the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* (for the public and officials), Ifangni, Benin, organized by the DRAVO NGO).

Lecture on the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* at the Seminar for the Training of rural organizing mothers, Porto-Novo, Benin (Organizers: DRAVO NGO).

Lecture on the *African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child*, Porto-Novo, Benin (at the request of the DRAVO NGO).

June 1992: Lecture on *The Rights of the Child*, Porto-Novo, Benin, organized by the DRAVO NGO.

9-27 March 1992: *Procedure for preparing legislation*

Initiatives for the defence of children's rights in Africa: the case of Benin

Seminar on "The Right to Development - Regional Programme of Training for Urban Organizers in French-speaking and Portuguese-speaking Africa", ENDA-Third World, Centre Paul IV, Cotonou, Benin.

September 1991: Lecture on *The Legal Protection of the Child*, Cotonou, Benin, organized by the National Section of Defence for Children International (DEI-Benin).

VI. SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATIONS:

A list of the scientific associations to which the Candidate belongs may be consulted at the Secretariat.

VII. LANGUAGE SKILLS

1. National languages:

Spoken: Fon

Understood: Gun, Wémè, Mina.

2. International languages:

Spoken and written: French and English

Read: German.